

### **Remarks/Arguments**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's discussions with Applicants' attorney Audrey Millemann over the telephone, in particular, on January 23, 2006 and January 31, 2006. Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Declaration of Houria I. Hassouna under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 (dated December 23, 2005) which was faxed to the Examiner on January 12, 2006 (a copy of which is formally submitted with this Amendment).

In this Amendment, Applicants have included the specific suggestions made by the Examiner, and believe they have addressed all of the issues raised by the Office Action mailed on September 29, 2005. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse those rejections and request reconsideration of the claims.

Claims 22, 23, 24, 25, 34, 35, 36, and 37 have been amended to delete the word "about."

Claims 10 and 19 have been amended as discussed with the Examiner. The amended claims include the range of concentrations of ethanol and  $\text{CaCl}_2$  as supported by the specification and as suggested by the Examiner.

With respect to claim 12, Applicants have left this claim as withdrawn.

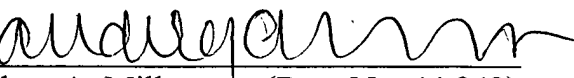
Claims 27 and 39 have been cancelled.

In addition, Applicants submit replacement sheets containing corrected drawings of Figures 5-12 consistent with the marked-up drawings submitted to the Examiner on July 19, 2005. Applicants also submit replacement sheets for Figures 1-4; the only change on these sheets is the addition of the sheet number (1/12, etc.). No new matter has been added to any of the drawings.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner pass this case to issue. If the Examiner believes any issues remain outstanding, Applicants request that the Examiner telephone Audrey Millemann at 916-558-6033.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 28, 2006

By:   
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I hereby certify, under 37 C.F.R. 1.10, that this document and those enclosed are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" to the Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 28, 2006, Express Mail Label No. EV469012287US.

  
Audrey A. Millemann

Note: Each paper or fee referred to has the Express Mail label number placed thereon.  
(37 C.F.R. 1.10(b).)

### **Amendments to the Drawings**

Figures 5-12 have been corrected as shown in the marked-up drawings submitted to the Examiner with Applicants' amendment by fax on July 19, 2005, and as discussed in that response.

Figures 1-4 have been corrected to add the sheet number (1/12, etc).

No new matter has been added to any of the drawings.